



Commonwealth of Kentucky Labor Cabinet

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D.B. Wilson Station Earns Big Rivers its 36th Governor's Safety and Health Award

Employees work more than 1.5 million hours without a lost-time incident

CENTERTOWN, Ky. (Dec. 5, 2014) – Deputy Secretary Rocky Comito of the Kentucky Labor Cabinet joined employees and officials in Centertown today to present the employees of D.B. Wilson Station with the Governor's Safety and Health Award. The honor recognizes the station's approximately 100 employees for working 1,500,434 hours without a lost-time accident or illness.

Kentucky Labor Secretary Larry L. Roberts called the award a testament to the quality of the workforce.

"It's the employees of Wilson Station who earned this award," said Secretary Roberts. "This not only shows the high level of dedication they have to safety, but it underscores the tremendous quality of the workers and people here in Kentucky."

Incorporated in 1961, Big Rivers has earned 35 previous Governor's Safety and Health Awards throughout the years. The corporation is a member-owned, not-for-profit, generation and transmission cooperative headquartered in Henderson. With nearly 600 employees, Big Rivers owns, operates and maintains a 1,285-mile transmission system, three generating plants and 22 substations.

“This is a tremendous accomplishment, and it not only demonstrates a strong safety focus, but also excellence, teamwork, and a concern for each other,” said Keith Scott, plant manager of Wilson Station. “Congratulations to all Wilson employees, both past and present, who were involved in achieving this milestone.”

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 1701 represents the employees at Wilson Station. The national IBEW union traces its roots to the late 1800s, and is the oldest and largest electrical union in the world.

Big Rivers is owned by three distribution cooperative members: Jackson Purchase Energy Corp., headquartered in Paducah; Kenergy Corp., headquartered in Henderson; and Meade County Rural Electric Cooperative Corp., headquartered in Brandenburg. These member cooperatives deliver retail electric power and energy to more than 113,000 residential, commercial, and industrial customers in portions of 22 western Kentucky counties.

The Kentucky Labor Cabinet presents the Governor’s Safety and Health Award in recognition of outstanding safety and health performance. An establishment may qualify for the award if its employees together achieve a required number of hours worked without experiencing a lost-time injury or illness. The required number of hours is dependent upon the number of employees. In the case of Wilson Station, the requirement is 250,000.

The Governor’s Safety and Health Award program is part of Gov. Steve Beshear’s efforts to improve the health of all Kentuckians. The Governor launched [kyhealthnow](#) in February as an aggressive and wide-ranging initiative to significantly reduce incidents and deaths from Kentucky’s dismal health rankings and habits. It builds on Kentucky’s successful implementation of health care reform and uses multiple strategies over the next several years to improve the state’s collective health.

Every establishment within the geographical boundaries of Kentucky is eligible, even if the establishment won the award the previous year. Eligibility is limited to one award during a 12-month period of time.

The award is a certificate mounted on a wooden plaque. The certificate contains the signatures of Kentucky Gov. Beshear, Secretary Roberts and Department of Workplace Standards Commissioner Anthony Russell.

For more on the Governor’s Safety and Health Award, and for a list of past winners, click [here](#).

For more on Big Rivers, visit www.bigrivers.com.

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The Kentucky Labor Cabinet's primary responsibility is to ensure that divisions and offices falling under the auspices of the Cabinet work within the jurisdiction of Kentucky labor law to ensure equitable and fair treatment of the Commonwealth's nearly 1.9 million wage-earning employees. The Cabinet, according to regulation, has the duties, responsibilities, power, and authority relating to labor, wage and hour issues, occupational safety and health of employees, child labor, apprenticeship, workers' compensation insurance, and all other matters under the jurisdiction of the Labor Cabinet. For more information, visit www.labor.ky.gov/.

